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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the third National Education Goal is for all students to be competent in academic subject matter, while the fifth National Education Goal is for U.S. students to be able to perform at world-class levels in mathematics and science. This report summarizes the progress each state has made toward Goal 3--the students' achievement and citizenship goal, and Goal 5--the mathematics and science goal, with particular emphasis placed on mathematics and science achievements in Wisconsin. It is concluded that the majority of states participating in National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessments have made progress toward Goal 3 in mathematics. (ASK)

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Mathematics and Science Achievement in Wisconsin, 1998

ED 424 121

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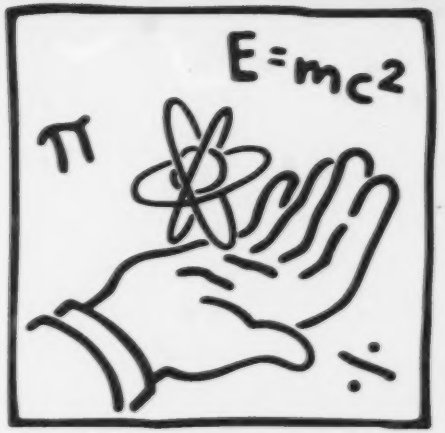
Goal 3: Student Achievement and Citizenship

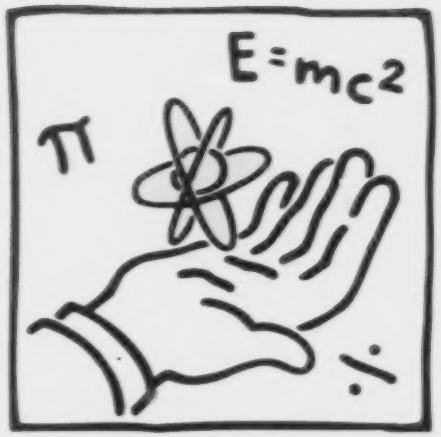


Goal 5: Mathematics and Science

The National Education Goals Panel

Mathematics and Science Achievement in Wisconsin, 1998

Goal 3: Student Achievement and Citizenship



Goal 5: Mathematics and Science

The National Education Goals Panel

National Education Goals Panel

The National Education Goals Panel (NEGP) is a unique bipartisan and intergovernmental body of federal and state officials created in July 1990 to assess and report state and national progress toward achieving the National Education Goals. In 1994, the Goals Panel became a fully independent federal agency charged with monitoring and speeding progress toward the eight National Education Goals. Under the legislation, the Panel is charged with a variety of responsibilities to support systemwide reform, including:

- reporting on national and state progress toward the Goals over a 10-year period;
- working to establish a system of high academic standards and assessments;
- identifying promising practices for improving education; and
- building a nationwide, bipartisan consensus to achieve the Goals.

Panel members include eight Governors, four members of Congress, four state legislators, and two members appointed by the President.

This state report is a condensed version of *Mathematics and Science Achievement State by State, 1998*, which includes four pages of information for the United States, each state, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. Please provide any comments you may have about this report by using the response card in the back of this document.

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National Education Goals Panel
1255 22nd Street, NW, Suite 502
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: (202) 724-0015
Fax: (202) 632-0957
E-mail: NEGP@goalline.org

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Goal 3 *Student Achievement and Citizenship*

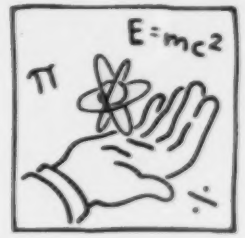
By the year 2000, all students will leave grades 4, 8, and 12 having demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography, and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our Nation's modern economy.

Objectives:

- The academic performance of all students at the elementary and secondary level will increase significantly in every quartile, and the distribution of minority students in each quartile will more closely reflect the student population as a whole.
- The percentage of all students who demonstrate the ability to reason, solve problems, apply knowledge, and write and communicate effectively will increase substantially.
- All students will be involved in activities that promote and demonstrate good citizenship, good health, community service, and personal responsibility.
- All students will have access to physical education and health education to ensure they are healthy and fit.
- The percentage of all students who are competent in more than one language will substantially increase.
- All students will be knowledgeable about the diverse cultural heritage of this Nation and about the world community.

Goal 5 *Mathematics and Science*

By the year 2000, United States students will be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.



Objectives:

- Mathematics and science education, including the metric system of measurement, will be strengthened throughout the system, especially in the early grades.
- The number of teachers with a substantive background in mathematics and science, including the metric system of measurement, will increase by 50 percent.
- The number of United States undergraduate and graduate students, especially women and minorities, who complete degrees in mathematics, science, and engineering will increase significantly.

Foreword

A Special Message to the Citizens of Wisconsin from Governor Tommy G. Thompson

As Governor, nothing is more important to me than the education of our children. Wisconsin's greatest asset has always been its educated and motivated workforce, so it has been an honor to serve as a member of the National Education Goals Panel during the past year.

Parents and citizens of Wisconsin need to know how well our students are performing, benchmarked against the best. This report from the National Education Goals Panel, *Mathematics and Science Achievement in Wisconsin, 1998*, offers us that information. It shows that Wisconsin's students are in the front row of the nation's classrooms in math – and in science, they're simply world-class. I'm especially proud of our improvement in math since 1990.

- Taken as a whole, no state had a significantly higher percentage of their students rated Proficient or better in 4th grade mathematics, 8th grade mathematics, or 8th grade science than Wisconsin.
- In science, only one nation in the world – Singapore – would be expected to outperform Wisconsin's 8th graders. In mathematics, only six of 41 nations would be expected to outperform Wisconsin's 8th graders.
- In the areas examined by this report – 8th grade science, and 4th and 8th grade mathematics – Wisconsin is consistently among the top states, and student performance is measurably better than in the nation as a whole.
- Wisconsin was one of 14 states awarded a gold star for world-class performance in 8th grade science achievement, and one of 28 states awarded a gold star for improvement in mathematics. In 1996, the most recent year for which data are available, 32% of Wisconsin's 8th grade students scored at the two highest levels of achievement in math (Proficient or Advanced) on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). That's a big improvement over 1990, when only 23% did.

Although 49 states, including Wisconsin, have set academic benchmarks for their students, the National Assessment of Educational Progress allows all states to compare whether their own standards are sufficiently challenging. By the evidence of this first report, Wisconsin's are. The work of the National Education Goals Panel provides a yardstick for Wisconsin to measure itself against. A careful reading of the full report will help all students move ahead.

I am proud of Wisconsin's students, their parents, and their schools. But we must continue to run the educational marathon or fall behind. These recent educational innovations are designed to keep Wisconsin students at the head of the class:

- We have ended "social promotion." We are requiring school districts to set academic standards that 4th and 8th graders must meet before they can advance to the next grade.
- We are encouraging teachers to better themselves continually through a teacher peer review and mentoring program.
- A $4,500 incentive awaits every teacher who achieves certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- The Minority Teacher Loan program will attract more minority teachers to the Milwaukee Public Schools.

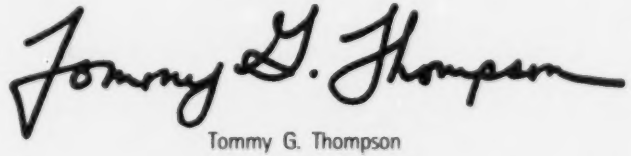
As Wisconsin enters the new millennium, our schools, libraries, technical colleges, colleges, and universities are being wired to the Internet. During the 1997–99 biennium, the "TEACH Wisconsin" program is providing more than $200 million to accelerate the use of technology in K–12 schools, public and private, across the state.

Wisconsin's quest for educational excellence begins in the nursery. To encourage good reading habits, we are sending the family of every newborn child a Golden Book (printed right here in Wisconsin) through the "Wisconsin First Book" program. In Wisconsin, the race to the educational top begins at birth.

As Wisconsin observes its 150th birthday this year, it is appropriate to note where we have come from and where we are going. Wisconsin has always valued education. We are the state that invented kindergarten, in 1856. The University of Wisconsin was the first to offer extension courses, in 1892. The healthy principle of competition was introduced into K-12 education when we became one of the first states to approve charter schools, and we were the first state, in 1990, with a large-scale tuition voucher plan for private schools. Wisconsin initiated trade apprenticeships back in 1911, and we have been an innovator in school-to-work since 1992.

Wisconsin schools have a proud heritage of excellence. As this report shows, Wisconsin's schools today are, on the whole, doing an excellent job. Together we can build upon this proud record and work to extend excellence into all Wisconsin schools.

Sincerely,



Tommy G. Thompson
Governor of Wisconsin

A Special Message to the Citizens of Wisconsin from State Representative G. Spencer Coggs

Foreword

As a state legislator and member of the National Education Goals Panel, I am pleased to provide you with this report, *Mathematics and Science Achievement in Wisconsin, 1998.* As the Panel's only African American member, and in light of the myriad problems facing minorities in large urban school districts, I feel that the student achievement goals – Goal 3: Student Achievement and Citizenship, and Goal 5: Mathematics and Science – must be considered the nation's and Wisconsin's highest education priority.

This report offers student results for 4th and 8th grade mathematics, and 8th grade science from both the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) reports. NAEP is the only long-term national assessment that measures students' competency in different subject areas. State involvement in NAEP is voluntary, and in 1996, 45 states participated. TIMSS compares information on student achievement in more than 40 countries around the world.

The National Education Goals Panel has set its performance standard at the two highest levels of achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Those two levels are Proficient and Advanced. The Goals Panel awards "Gold Stars" to those states that have performed at world-class levels, or that have made significant student achievement gains over time. The following shows how student achievement in Wisconsin compares with that of other states and nations:

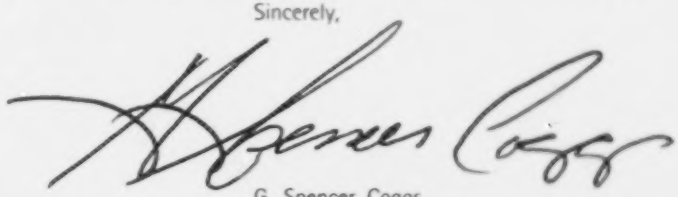
- Wisconsin students' academic performance is among the highest in the nation. No state significantly outperformed Wisconsin in 4th or 8th grade mathematics, or in 8th grade science.
- Not only does Wisconsin perform among the top tier of states, but performance in 8th grade math is improving over time. The percentage of Wisconsin's public school 8th graders who met the Goals Panel's performance standard for mathematics increased from 23% in 1990, to 32% in 1996, earning Wisconsin a "Gold Star" for improvement.
- Wisconsin students also perform well compared to students in the rest of the world. Internationally, only 6 of 41 participating nations would be expected to outperform Wisconsin's 8th graders in mathematics. In contrast, 20 nations performed significantly higher than the United States as a whole.
- Wisconsin was awarded a "Gold Star" by the National Education Goals Panel for world-class performance in 8th grade science. Only Singapore would be expected to outperform Wisconsin in this area.

Wisconsin has always ranked among the highest states in student achievement. When compared with other states on NAEP, Wisconsin's public school students consistently placed in the top tier in both mathematics and science achievement. Results of the 1997 American College Testing (ACT) test illustrate the same trend. Wisconsin ranked #1 among states in the proportion of students who take the ACT, and our score in 1997 was the highest in the state's history.

Although we are accomplishing a lot in our public schools, we still have many challenges to overcome. Not all students in Wisconsin are performing at the same high level. For both the United States and Wisconsin, the percentage of white students who scored at the Proficient level or higher on NAEP was significantly greater than the percentage of minority students who met this standard. Achievement in both the United States and Wisconsin also varied significantly by school location and poverty level. Students in non-urban areas significantly outperformed students in central cities, and students who qualified for the free or reduced-price lunch program performed less well than wealthier students. The Milwaukee public school system is the largest school district in the state, and because of its poverty levels, it would have to be deemed an educational priority. Ultimately, we want all Wisconsin students achieving at high levels.

This report provides a valuable source of information to monitor Wisconsin on its educational journey. The report is also a method of benchmarking our state's progress to other states and countries around the world. I encourage all school districts to volunteer to participate in the NAEP assessments. Wisconsin's challenge is to keep its momentum going "Forward" (like the state slogan), by providing *all* students with the academic knowledge and skills that they will need to become productive and meaningful citizens of the future.

Sincerely,



G. Spencer Coggs
State Representative, Wisconsin

Data Highlights

Wisconsin

The aim of the third National Education Goal is that all students will be competent in academic subject matter. State-level results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, indicate that Wisconsin has made progress toward this Goal in 8th grade mathematics.

The aim of the fifth National Education Goal is that U.S. students will achieve world-class levels of performance in mathematics and science achievement. Based on their NAEP scores, 14 states would be expected to achieve this level of performance in science, including Wisconsin.

- Wisconsin was one of 28 states awarded a gold star by the National Education Goals Panel for improvement over time in mathematics in either Grade 4 or Grade 8:

1. Arizona
2. Arkansas
3. California
4. Colorado
5. Connecticut
6. Delaware
7. Florida
8. Hawaii
9. Indiana
10. Iowa
11. Kentucky
12. Maryland
13. Michigan
14. Minnesota
15. Montana
16. Nebraska
17. New Hampshire
18. New Mexico
19. New York
20. North Carolina
21. North Dakota
22. Oregon
23. Rhode Island
24. Tennessee
25. Texas
26. West Virginia
27. Wisconsin
28. Wyoming

Wisconsin earned its star in 8th grade mathematics.

- Wisconsin was also one of 14 states awarded a gold star by the National Education Goals Panel for world-class performance in 8th grade science achievement:

1. Colorado
2. Connecticut
3. Iowa
4. Maine
5. Massachusetts
6. Minnesota
7. Montana
8. Nebraska
9. North Dakota
10. Oregon
11. Utah
12. Vermont
13. Wisconsin
14. Wyoming

- The National Education Goals Panel has set its performance standard at the two highest levels of achievement – Proficient or Advanced – on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP. In 1996, the percentages of public school students in Wisconsin who met this standard were:
  - 27% in 4th grade mathematics;
  - 32% in 8th grade mathematics; and
  - 39% in 8th grade science.

- When compared with other states, Wisconsin's public school students consistently placed at the top in both mathematics and science achievement. In 1996, no state had significantly higher percentages of students who were at or above Proficient in 4th grade mathematics, 8th grade mathematics, or 8th grade science.
- A new research study that uses NAEP scores to predict how states would compare to 41 nations that participated in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) places Wisconsin's performance among the top countries in mathematics, and at a world-class level of performance in science:
  - **Only 6 of the 41 participating nations would be expected to outperform Wisconsin's 8th graders in mathematics. Wisconsin would be expected to perform as well as Canada, England, France, Germany, and the Russian Federation, and better than the United States.**
  - **Only 1 of the 41 participating nations – Singapore – would be expected to outperform Wisconsin's 8th graders in science. Wisconsin would be expected to perform as well as England, Japan, and Korea, and better than Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, the Russian Federation, and the United States.**

Introduction

Although all of the National Education Goals are important, the two that focus on raising student academic achievement – Goals 3 and 5 – are considered by many to be the nation's highest education priorities. Goal 3 calls for all students to demonstrate competency over challenging subject matter, while Goal 5 calls for U.S. students to be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.

State policymakers need good information to help them monitor their state's progress toward these Goals. First, policymakers need to know whether student achievement is increasing over time, so that they can determine whether educational programs and policies are having the desired effect. Second, policymakers need to be able to benchmark their state against other states and countries to see how their students' academic performance compares to the best in the nation and the best in the world. Third, policymakers need to know how different groups of students are performing academically, so that they can target educational services appropriately.

This report provides all three types of information. Its purpose is to summarize the amount of progress that Wisconsin has made in raising student academic achievement in mathematics and science since the National Education Goals were established in 1990.

Report format

This report contains four pages of information for Wisconsin (see pp. 10-13). The first three pages measure progress toward Goal 3, using student achievement data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP was authorized by Congress in 1969, and is the only nationally representative and ongoing assessment that measures what students know and are able to do in different subject areas. Congress expanded NAEP to allow the reporting of comparable state-by-state results, beginning with the 1990 mathematics assessment. Participation in state-level NAEP is voluntary, and has increased from 40 states and territories in 1990 to 45 in 1996.

NAEP results are reported in mathematics (Grades 4 and 8) and science (Grade 8). Thus far, these are the only grades in which NAEP mathematics and science assessments have been administered at the state level. Since 1990, mathematics has been assessed twice at Grade 4 (in 1992 and 1996) and three times at Grade 8 (in 1990, 1992, and 1996). Science has been assessed once (in 1996).

The first three pages of data show:

- how much progress Wisconsin has made over time;
- how the state's latest academic performance compares to that of the United States and other states;[1] and
- how different subgroups of students in the state performed on the most recent NAEP assessment.

The National Education Goals Panel awards gold stars to states that have shown a significant increase in the percentage of students in their state who meet the National Education Goals Panel's performance standard.[2] The Goals Panel's performance standard is based on three achievement levels set by the National Assessment Governing Board to describe the quality of student achievement on NAEP: Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. The Basic level represents partial mastery of necessary knowledge and skills; the Proficient level represents solid academic performance; and the Advanced level represents superior performance.[3] The Goals Panel has set its performance standard at the Proficient or Advanced levels on NAEP. The Goals Panel considers performance at these two highest levels as evidence that students have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter.

The fourth page of data shows how close Wisconsin is to achieving Goal 5 (see p. 13). Although Goal 5 calls for the United States – not each individual state – to be first in the world in mathematics and science, the majority of states must be at world-class levels of performance in mathematics and science if we expect the nation to attain first-in-the-world status. International comparisons of student achievement in 8th grade mathematics and science are presented, using data from a newly released research study.[4] This study statistically links state results from the 1996 NAEP with country results

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[1] The term "state" is used hereafter in this report to refer to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories.

[2] In this report, "significance" refers to statistical significance and indicates that the observed differences are not likely to have occurred by chance. All differences in this report that are termed "statistically significant" are measured at the 0.05 level.

[3] Bourque, M.L., Champagne, A.B., & Crissman, S. (1997, October). *1996 Science performance standards: Achievement results for the nation and the states*. Washington, DC: National Assessment Governing Board.

[4] Johnson, E.G., & Siegendorf, A. (1998, May). *Linking the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the Third International Mathematics and Science Study: Eighth grade results*. Report prepared for the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, NCES 98-500. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

from the 1995 Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). TIMSS is the most comprehensive international study of mathematics and science achievement conducted to date. TIMSS tested half a million students in 41 countries in 30 different languages. Participating countries included the United States, as well as some of the United States' chief economic competitors and trading partners, such as Japan, Germany, Canada, Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the Russian Federation.

Linking the two assessments allows us to predict how each state would have performed on TIMSS, relative to the 41 countries that actually participated in the international assessment, on the basis of each state's NAEP performance. The authors of the linking study caution that the technique used to link the two tests can provide only limited information, since NAEP and TIMSS cover different content and were taken by different groups of students at different times. Nevertheless, the technique can provide broad comparisons that tell states which countries' students would be expected to score significantly higher than, similar to, or significantly lower than their own students in mathematics and science on this international assessment. In this report, gold stars signifying "world-class performance" are awarded to those states that would be expected to score as well as, or better than, 40 or more of the 41 participating TIMSS nations in mathematics or science.

Value to states

This report shows three of the ways in which NAEP data can be a valuable source of information for states:

1. **NAEP can be used to monitor educational progress over time.**

One of the most common uses of NAEP is to monitor trends in academic performance to see whether student achievement is improving over time. This is possible because NAEP is designed to repeat assessments in each subject area at least every four years. This feature enables policymakers to answer questions such as: Has student performance improved since my state established new statewide standards in science? Are more 8th graders in my state considered Proficient in mathematics since my state began requiring all 8th graders to take algebra?

> ***Improvement Over Time*** *is presented in Part 1 on pp. 10-12. The percentages of Wisconsin's students who scored at or above the Proficient level on NAEP mathematics and science assessments will be tracked over a ten-year period, from the establishment of the National Education Goals in 1990, until the year 2000.*

2. **NAEP can be used to benchmark state performance against the best in the nation and the best in the world.**

Because NAEP scores are comparable across states, policymakers can use NAEP to answer questions such as: How does my state compare to neighboring states or to the highest-performing states in the country?[1] It is also possible to use NAEP scores in a more limited way to predict relative performance on a related assessment such as TIMSS, so that states can benchmark their performance against top-performing nations in mathematics and science. Policymakers can use results from the NAEP/TIMSS linking study to answer questions such as: How many nations would be expected to outperform my state in 8th grade mathematics? How would my state be expected to perform in comparison to the United States' major trading partners in 8th grade science?

> ***State Comparisons*** *are presented in Part 2 on pp. 10-12. Wisconsin's performance is compared to the nation and to other states on the most recent NAEP mathematics and science assessments.*
>
> ***International Comparisons*** *are presented on p. 13. Wisconsin's predicted performance on TIMSS is compared to the actual performance of the 41 participating TIMSS nations. Countries are clustered in alphabetical order in three groups: those that would be expected to perform significantly higher than, significantly lower than, or not significantly different from Wisconsin in 8th grade mathematics and science.*

3. **NAEP can be used to monitor whether all groups of students in a state are achieving at high levels.**

Goal 3 specifies that all students will demonstrate competency over challenging subject matter. Because NAEP data can be broken out by subgroups, policymakers can use NAEP to answer questions such as: Are similar proportions of boys and girls in my state considered Proficient in mathematics and science? Do minority students score as well as White students? Do large achievement gaps exist between urban and non-urban students?

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[1] Although NAEP scores are comparable, the reader should bear in mind that many variables of interest to state policymakers can contribute to differences in state performance, such as available resources, curricula, educational practices, etc. The results presented in this report do not control for these variables.

***Subgroup Performance** is presented in Part 3 on pp. 10-12. This section shows how many students in different subgroups in Wisconsin scored at or above the Proficient level on the most recent NAEP mathematics and science assessments. Results are presented by sex, race/ethnicity, parents' highest level of education, school location, and eligibility for free/reduced-price lunch programs.*

Interpreting the results

NAEP is a large-scale assessment intended for monitoring trends in student performance and is not administered to every student. Instead, samples of students are selected to take the test. This enables states to use smaller, cost-efficient samples to predict how the entire student population would have performed on an assessment without testing all of them. This is similar to a public opinion poll that predicts, with a certain degree of confidence, how all individuals would have responded to a set of questions had they all been polled.

It is important to note that any estimate based on a sample, whether it is from a NAEP assessment or a public opinion poll, contains a small amount of error. The estimate would be slightly higher or slightly lower if a different sample were chosen. Public opinion polls account for this error when they caution that their results are "accurate within plus or minus two percentage points." In the same way, we must account for the uncertainty in NAEP results, whether we are comparing progress over time, performance among states, or performance among subgroups of students within a state.

We account for the uncertainty by using a formula to calculate a standard error for each estimate.[6] The standard error tells us how precise the estimate is. The closer the standard error is to zero, the more precise the estimate. Although sample size is only one of several factors that influence the size of the standard error, as a general rule, larger samples yield more precise estimates and smaller standard errors.

If we want to examine differences between groups – for example, to determine whether one state performed at a higher level than another did – we must apply a statistical test to tell us whether there are likely to be differences in actual performance between groups in the entire population. The statistical test takes into account the size of the standard errors for each group's score, as well as the difference between the scores. If the test indicates that the groups in the entire population are likely to perform differently, we say that the difference is statistically significant. This means that the differences are not likely to have occurred by chance – we can be confident that performance has changed over time or one group has outperformed another.

This should be kept in mind when reviewing the data on pp. 10-12. In Part 1 on p. 10, for example, it may appear that the percentage of students who scored at the Proficient level or higher on NAEP has gone up over time, but the change is reported as "not significant." This occurs because even though there is a difference in scores, it is not statistically different. Because each percentage is an estimate that has some uncertainty associated with it, it is possible for a small gain to be significant in one case, while a larger percentage-point gain can fail to be significant in another.

The same caution must be exercised when interpreting the results in Parts 2 and 3. In Part 2, it would not be accurate to rank individual states strictly by the percentages of students who scored at or above Proficient. Instead of ranking individual states, it is more useful to talk about states' performance in terms of clusters of states that performed significantly higher than, significantly lower than, or not significantly different from a particular state.

Similarly, in Part 3, it would not be accurate to conclude that one subgroup of students outperformed another based solely on the percentages listed on the graph. An observed difference of 3 percentage points between males and females, for example, may not be statistically significant when standard errors are taken into account. In order to keep the graphs in Part 3 as clear and as readable as possible, we have not attempted to flag subgroup differences on the graphs themselves. Instead, statistically significant differences between subgroups are summarized on p. 14.

Finally, readers should use caution when interpreting the results of the NAEP/TIMSS linking study on p. 13. The purpose of the linking study is to compare states to nations, not states to states or nations to nations. State-to-state comparisons, using comparable NAEP data, appear in Part 2 on pp. 10-12. Because the results of the NAEP/TIMSS linking study can offer only approximate comparisons of performance of individual states relative to the 41 participating TIMSS nations, nations are simply listed in alphabetical order and actual scores are not shown.[7]

[6] For more detailed information, see the National Education Goals Panel's full report, *Mathematics and Science Achievement State by State, 1998*. See also the Technical Report of the NAEP 1996 State Assessment Program in Mathematics.

[7] For more detailed technical information about the NAEP/TIMSS linking study, see the forthcoming report from the National Center for Education Statistics, *Linking the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the Third International Mathematics and Science Study at the eighth grade: A research report*.

Findings — Improvement Over Time

The percentage of students who met the Goals Panel's performance standard (that is, a score at or above Proficient on NAEP) increased significantly during the 1990s:

- nationally and in 7 states in 4th grade mathematics; and
- nationally and in 27 states in 8th grade mathematics.

In no state has achievement declined by an amount that is statistically significant.

The 28 states that earned stars for improvement over time are shown on the map in Figure 1. At present, the maximum number of stars that a state can earn for improvement in student academic achievement is two (in 4th grade mathematics and in 8th grade mathematics). A star for improvement cannot yet be earned in 8th grade science, because NAEP has assessed science only once at the state level.

☆ ***Twenty-eight states, including Wisconsin, have earned at least one star (out of a possible two) for improvement over time in mathematics in either Grade 4 or Grade 8:***

1. Arizona
2. Arkansas
3. California
4. Colorado
5. Connecticut
6. Delaware
7. Florida
8. Hawaii
9. Indiana
10. Iowa
11. Kentucky
12. Maryland
13. Michigan
14. Minnesota
15. Montana
16. Nebraska
17. New Hampshire
18. New Mexico
19. New York
20. North Carolina
21. North Dakota
22. Oregon
23. Rhode Island
24. Tennessee
25. Texas
26. West Virginia
27. Wisconsin
28. Wyoming

☆☆ ***Six of these states have earned two stars (out of a possible two) for improvement over time in mathematics in both Grade 4 and Grade 8:***

1. Colorado
2. Connecticut
3. Indiana
4. North Carolina
5. Texas
6. West Virginia

- ***Seven states that made significant gains in mathematics, including Wisconsin, were also among the highest-performing states* in the nation:***

1. Connecticut
2. Iowa
3. Minnesota
4. Montana
5. Nebraska
6. North Dakota
7. Wisconsin

Findings — State Comparisons

Mathematics — Grade 4

National Performance

In 1996, 21% of U.S. 4th graders in public and nonpublic schools scored at the Proficient level or higher on the NAEP mathematics assessment.

State Performance

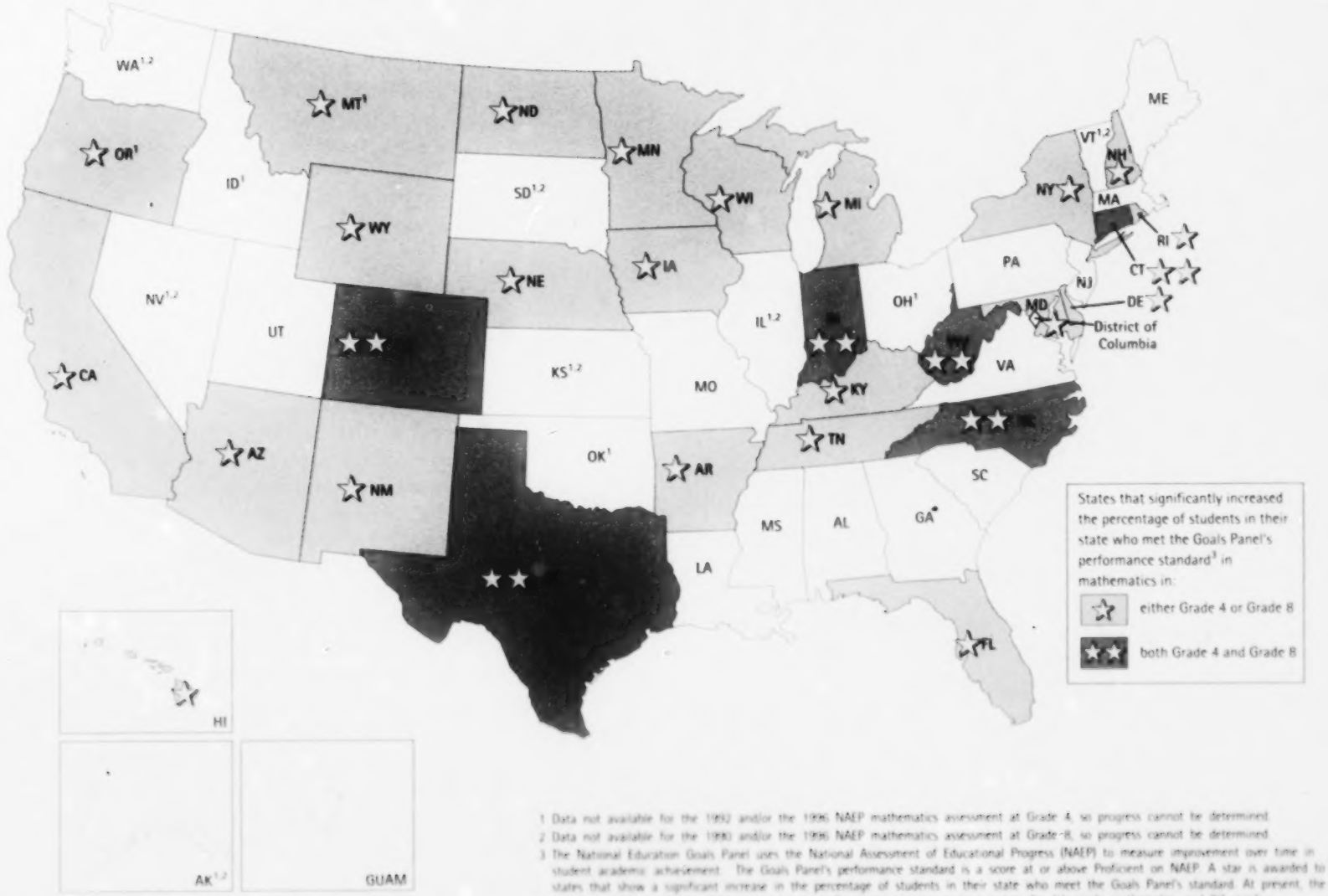
In 1996, the percentage of public school 4th graders who scored at the Proficient level or higher on the NAEP mathematics assessment ranged from 3% in the lowest-performing states to 31% in the highest-performing states. In Wisconsin, 27% met the standard.

Highest-performing states*	
Connecticut	31%
Minnesota	29%
Maine	27%
Wisconsin	27%

* Highest-performing states are defined as those in which the percentage of students who scored at or above Proficient on NAEP was significantly higher than the percentage of students who did so nationally.

State Progress Toward Goal 3: Improvement Over Time in Mathematics and Science Achievement

Figure 1



1 Data not available for the 1992 and/or the 1996 NAEP mathematics assessment at Grade 4, so progress cannot be determined.

2 Data not available for the 1990 and/or the 1996 NAEP mathematics assessment at Grade 8, so progress cannot be determined.

3 The National Education Goals Panel uses the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to measure improvement over time in student academic achievement. The Goals Panel's performance standard is a score at or above Proficient on NAEP. A star is awarded to states that show a significant increase in the percentage of students in their state who meet the Goals Panel's standard. At present, the maximum number of stars that a state can earn for improvement over time is two (in 4th grade mathematics and 8th grade mathematics). A star for improvement cannot yet be earned in 8th grade science, because NAEP has assessed science only once at the state level.

Mathematics — Grade 8

National Performance

In 1996, 24% of U.S. 8th graders in public and nonpublic schools scored at the Proficient level or higher on the NAEP mathematics assessment.

State Performance

In 1996, the percentage of public school 8th graders who scored at the Proficient level or higher on the NAEP mathematics assessment ranged from 5% in the lowest-performing states to 34% in the highest-performing states. In Wisconsin, 32% met the standard.

Highest-performing states*	
Minnesota	34%
North Dakota	33%
Montana	32%
Wisconsin	32%
Connecticut	31%
Iowa	31%
Maine	31%
Nebraska	31%
Alaska	30%

Science — Grade 8

National Performance

In 1996, 29% of U.S. 8th graders in public and nonpublic schools scored at the Proficient level or higher on the NAEP science assessment.

State Performance

In 1996, the percentage of public school 8th graders who scored at the Proficient level or higher on the NAEP science assessment ranged from 5% in the lowest-performing states to 41% in the highest-performing states. In Wisconsin, 39% met the standard.

Highest-performing states*	
Maine	41%
Montana	41%
North Dakota	41%
Wisconsin	39%
Massachusetts	37%
Minnesota	37%
Connecticut	36%
Iowa	36%
Nebraska	35%
Wyoming	34%

Findings — Subgroup Performance[B]

Differences by Sex

- Nationally and in 9 out of 45 states, including Wisconsin, the percentage of male students who scored at or above Proficient in 4th grade mathematics was higher than the percentage of females who did so.
- In 6 out of 43 states, males outperformed females in 8th grade mathematics. There was no significant difference at the national level or in Wisconsin.
- In 19 out of 42 states, including Wisconsin, males outperformed females in 8th grade science. There was no significant difference at the national level.

Differences by Race/Ethnicity

- At the national level and in most states, there were no significant differences between the percentages of White and Asian/Pacific Islander students who scored at the Proficient level or higher on NAEP.
- However, in the majority of cases at both the national and state levels, the percentages of White students who scored at the Proficient level or higher were significantly greater than the percentages of other minority students who met this standard. In Wisconsin, Whites outperformed Hispanics in 4th and 8th grade mathematics and in 8th grade science. Whites also outperformed Blacks in 4th grade mathematics and 8th grade science.

Differences by Parents' Highest Level of Education

- Nationally and in almost every case at the state level, students whose parents had some education beyond high school or whose parents were college graduates outperformed students who reported that neither of their parents had graduated from high school. Student performance in 8th grade mathematics and science followed this pattern in Wisconsin.

* Highest-performing states are defined as those in which the percentage of students who scored at or above Proficient on NAEP was significantly higher than the percentage of students who did so nationally.

[B] The reader is cautioned to avoid interpreting subgroup differences in this section of the report as causal relationships.

State Progress Toward Goal 5: World-Class Performance in Mathematics and Science Achievement

Figure 2

1 Data not available for the 1996 NAEP mathematics and science assessments at Grade 8, so international comparisons cannot be predicted.

2 In 1995, a representative sample of 8th graders in Minnesota took the same mathematics and science assessments administered in the 41 participating TIMSS nations. International comparisons for Minnesota, therefore, are based on actual student performance, not predictions. Students in Missouri and Oregon also took the TIMSS assessments in 1997, but their results have not yet been publicly released.

3 TIMSS is the Third International Mathematics and Science Study. TIMSS was administered in 1995 in 41 countries, including the United States. The information presented on this map is based on the results of a newly released research study that links two different mathematics and science assessments: the 1995 TIMSS and the 1996 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The research study was designed to compare states to nations, and predicts how individual states would have performed on TIMSS, given their NAEP scores. At present, the maximum number of stars that a state can earn for world-class academic performance is two (in Grade 8 mathematics and Grade 8 science), although no state has earned a star in mathematics.

Differences by School Location

- At the national level and in Wisconsin, students who attended school in urban fringes/large towns outperformed those who attended school in central cities in 4th and 8th grade mathematics. Wisconsin students who attended school in rural areas/small towns also outperformed students in central cities in 8th grade mathematics.

Differences by Poverty
(as measured by eligibility for free/reduced-price lunch program)

- In all cases – nationally and in every state – students who were not eligible for the free/reduced-price lunch program outperformed students who were eligible for this program. This was true across all subjects and grades.

Findings – International Comparisons

In 8th grade mathematics, the United States scored higher than 7 countries, lower than 20, and not significantly different from 13. In 8th grade science, the United States scored higher than 15 countries, lower than 9, and not significantly different from 16. When compared to our chief economic partners, the United States is in the bottom half in mathematics and around the middle in science.

The expected performance of individual states on the TIMSS mathematics and science assessments varied widely. In mathematics, the number of countries that would be expected to outperform a given state ranged from 6 to 38. In science, the number ranged from 1 to 38.

States that earned gold stars for "world-class performance" in mathematics and science are shown on the map in Figure 2. Stars were awarded to states that would be expected to score as well as, or better than, 40 or more of the 41 participating TIMSS nations in mathematics or science. The maximum number of stars that a state can earn for world-class performance is two (one in mathematics and one in science), although no state earned a star in mathematics. Wisconsin would be expected to score as well as, or better than, 35 nations in mathematics and 40 nations in science.

In science, 14 states earned a star for world-class performance, including Wisconsin. Students in only one nation – Singapore – would be expected to outperform the 8th graders in these states in science:

1. Colorado
2. Connecticut
3. Iowa
4. Maine
5. Massachusetts
6. Minnesota
7. Montana
8. Nebraska
9. North Dakota
10. Oregon
11. Utah
12. Vermont
13. Wisconsin
14. Wyoming

Conclusions

Is Wisconsin making progress toward Goal 3 of the National Education Goals by increasing student achievement in mathematics and science? We cannot answer this question for science yet because NAEP has assessed science only once at the state level. However, in mathematics the answer is "yes." The majority of states that participated in NAEP assessments during the 1990s, including Wisconsin, have shown significant improvements in student academic achievement in mathematics in at least one grade. Wisconsin was one of twenty-eight states that earned at least one star (out of a possible two) for improvement over time. From this perspective, Wisconsin has moved closer to the Goal in mathematics.

How close is Wisconsin to achieving the world-class levels of performance in mathematics and science indicated in Goal 5? Results of the NAEP/TIMSS linking study suggest that no state would likely place first in the world in mathematics, but Wisconsin would be expected to trail only six countries if Wisconsin's students were to take the TIMSS assessment. Wisconsin would be expected to fare even better in 8th grade science, placing among the 14 states that would be expected to achieve world-class levels of performance.

The challenge before us now is to increase momentum – to accelerate student academic progress in more states, in more subject areas, in more grades, and among all students. The National Education Goals Panel will continue to

monitor state progress as new state-level NAEP assessments are administered in reading, writing, mathematics, and science between now and the end of the decade, and in 1999, when the international TIMSS mathematics and science assessments are scheduled to be repeated in approximately 40 countries. Future Goals Panel reports will describe educational programs and policies implemented by states that have made significant progress in raising student academic achievement. This information will be available on the Goals Panel's Web site, www.negp.gov, as part of a series of reports on promising state practices.

The National Education Goals Panel remains convinced that states want and need good information that will help them gauge the success of their education improvement efforts. This document shows three ways in which NAEP and TIMSS data can help state policymakers measure their state's progress toward Goals 3 and 5:

- by monitoring educational progress over time;
- by benchmarking their students' academic performance against the best in the nation and the best in the world; and
- by monitoring the extent to which all groups of students in their state are achieving at high levels.

The Goals Panel strongly encourages Wisconsin and all other states to continue participating in NAEP assessments and to consider participating in the next administration of TIMSS, so that policymakers and the public can determine whether educational programs and policies are producing the desired results – students who are competent, knowledgeable, and capable.

Data Sources

Mathematics

Reese, C.M., Miller, K.E., Mazzeo, J., & Dossey, J.A. (1997, February). *NAEP 1996 mathematics report card for the nation and the states.* Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.

National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 and 1992 NAEP mathematics data (revised), October 1996.

Science

Bourque, M.L., Champagne, A.B., & Crissman, S. (1997, October). *1996 science performance standards: Achievement results for the nation and the states.* Washington, DC: National Assessment Governing Board.

International Comparisons

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (1997). *Pursuing excellence: A study of U.S. eighth-grade mathematics and science teaching, learning, curriculum, and achievement in international context,* NCES 97-198, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Johnson, E.G., & Siegendorf, A. (1998, May). *Linking the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the Third International Mathematics and Science Study: Eighth grade results.* Report prepared for the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, NCES 98-500, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Wisconsin

Mathematics Grade 4

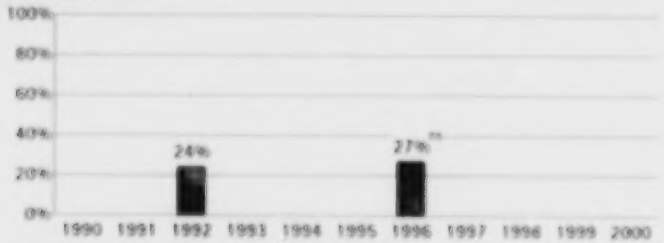
1. Improvement Over Time

Have Wisconsin's 4th graders improved in mathematics achievement?

Not yet. Between 1992 and 1996, there was no significant change in the percentage of public school 4th graders who met the Goals Panel's performance standard in mathematics.

The Goals Panel has set its performance standard at the two highest levels of achievement – Proficient or Advanced – on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP.

Percentage of public school 4th graders at or above Proficient on the NAEP mathematics assessment



** Interpret with caution. Change was not statistically significant.
Mathematics performance will be tested again in 2000.

2. State Comparisons[1]

How did Wisconsin compare with other states in 4th grade mathematics achievement in public schools in 1996?

13 states had similar percentages of students who were at or above Proficient on NAEP[2]

Connecticut	31%	Indiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Dakota	24%
Minnesota	29%		
Wisconsin, Maine	**27%**	Michigan, Utah, Vermont	23%
New Jersey, Texas	25%	Maryland	22%

31 states had significantly lower percentages of students who were at or above Proficient on NAEP

Colorado,[3] Iowa,[3] Montana[3]	22%	Nevada	14%
U.S.,[4] Alaska, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington	21%	Arkansas, Georgia, New Mexico, South Carolina	13%
Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania	20%	Alabama, California	11%
Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming	19%	Louisiana, Mississippi	8%
Rhode Island, Tennessee	17%	District of Columbia	5%
Delaware, Hawaii, Kentucky	16%	Guam	3%
Arizona, Florida	15%		

[1] The term "state" is used to refer to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories.
[2] See explanation on p. 3.
[3] State may appear to be out of place. However, statistically, its placement is correct.
[4] Figure shown for the U.S. includes both public and nonpublic school data.

3. Subgroup Performance

What percentages of public school 4th graders in different subgroups in Wisconsin were at or above Proficient on the 1996 NAEP mathematics assessment?

[1] Interpret differences between subgroups with caution. See p. 14.
[2] Characteristics of the sample do not permit a reliable estimate.

Mathematics Grade 8 — Wisconsin

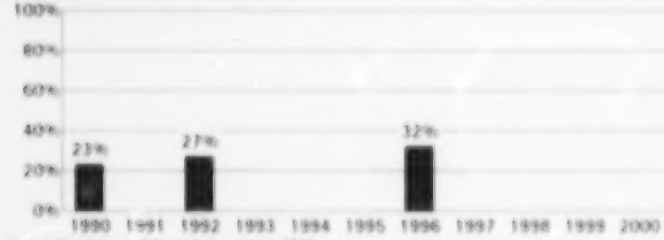
1. Improvement Over Time

Have Wisconsin's 8th graders improved in mathematics achievement?

Yes. The percentage of Wisconsin's public school 8th graders who met the Goals Panel's performance standard in mathematics increased from 23% in 1990, to 32% in 1996.

The Goals Panel has set its performance standard at the two highest levels of achievement – Proficient or Advanced – on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP.

Percentage of public school 8th graders at or above Proficient on the NAEP mathematics assessment



Mathematics performance will be tested again in 2000.

2. State Comparisons[1]

How did Wisconsin compare with other states in 8th grade mathematics achievement in public schools in 1996?

12 states had similar[2] percentages of students who were at or above Proficient on NAEP:

Minnesota	34%	Alaska	30%
North Dakota	33%	Massachusetts, Michigan	28%
Wisconsin, Montana	32%	Vermont	27%
Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Nebraska	31%	Oregon[3]	26%

29 states had significantly lower[2] percentages of students who were at or above Proficient on NAEP:

Washington	20%	Ohio, Hawaii, Kentucky	16%
Colorado	25%	Tennessee	15%
U.S.[4] Indiana, Maryland, Utah	24%	New Mexico, South Carolina, West Virginia	14%
Missouri, New York, Wyoming	22%		
Texas, Virginia	21%	Arkansas	13%
North Carolina, Rhode Island	20%	Alabama	12%
Delaware	19%	Louisiana, Mississippi	7%
Arizona	18%	Guam	6%
California, Florida	17%	District of Columbia	5%

[1] The term "state" is used to refer to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories.
[2] See explanation on p. 7.
[3] Score may appear to be out of place. However, statistically, its placement is correct.
[4] Figure shown for the U.S. includes both public and nonpublic school data.

3. Subgroup Performance

What percentages of public school 8th graders in different subgroups in Wisconsin were at or above Proficient on the 1996 NAEP mathematics assessment?

[1] Interpret differences between subgroups with caution. See p. 14.
[5] Characteristics of the sample do not permit a reliable estimate.

Wisconsin

Science Grade 8

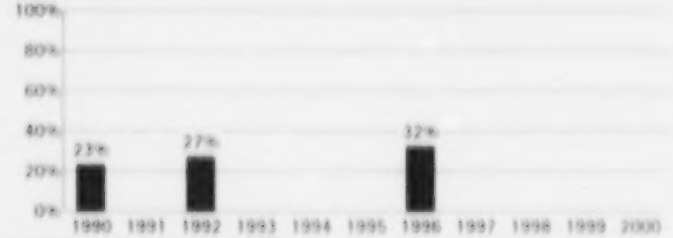
1. Improvement Over Time

Have Wisconsin's 8th graders improved in science achievement?

In 1996, 39% of Wisconsin's public school 8th graders met the Goals Panel's performance standard in science. The Goals Panel will report whether science performance has improved over time when science is assessed again in 2000.

The Goals Panel has set its performance standard at the two highest levels of achievement – Proficient or Advanced – on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP.

Percentage of public school 8th graders at or above Proficient on the NAEP science assessment



Science performance will be tested again in 2000.

2. State Comparisons[1]

How did Wisconsin compare with other states in 8th grade science achievement in public schools in 1996?

10 states had similar percentages of students who were at or above Proficient on NAEP:

Maine, Montana, North Dakota	41%	Connecticut, Iowa	38%
Wisconsin	**39%**	Nebraska	35%
Massachusetts, Minnesota	37%	Vermont, Wyoming	34%

31 states had significantly lower percentages of students who were at or above Proficient on NAEP:

Colorado, Michigan, Oregon, Utah	32%	Delaware, Florida, Georgia, West Virginia	21%
Alaska	31%		
Indiana	30%	California	20%
U.S.[3]	**29%**	New Mexico	19%
Missouri	29%	Alabama	18%
New York, Virginia, Washington	27%	South Carolina	17%
Rhode Island	26%	Hawaii	15%
Maryland	25%	Louisiana	13%
North Carolina	24%	Mississippi	12%
Arizona, Kentucky, Texas	23%	Guam	7%
Arkansas, Tennessee	22%	District of Columbia	6%

[1] The word "state" is used to refer to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Territories.
[2] See explanation on p. 3.
[3] Figure shown for the U.S. includes both public and nonpublic school data.

3. Subgroup Performance

What percentages of public school 8th graders in different subgroups in Wisconsin were at or above Proficient on the 1996 NAEP science assessment?

[1] Interpret differences between subgroups with caution. See p. 14.
[2] Characteristics of this subgroup do not permit a reliable estimate.
[4] No school location data for science in 1996.

Mathematics Grade 8

Forty-one nations[1] participated in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in 8th grade mathematics in 1995. If public school 8th graders in Wisconsin participated in the TIMSS mathematics assessment, how would their average performance compare to that of students who took TIMSS in these nations?

6 nations[1] would be expected to perform significantly higher:[1]

Belgium – Flemish[2]
Czech Republic
Hong Kong
Japan
Korea
Singapore

19 nations[1] would be expected to perform similarly:[1]

(Australia)
(Austria)
(Belgium – French)[2]
(Bulgaria)
Canada
(England)
France
(Germany)
Hungary
Ireland
(Israel)
(Netherlands)
New Zealand
Russian Federation
Slovak Republic
(Slovenia)
Sweden
(Switzerland)
(Thailand)
Wisconsin

16 nations[1] would be expected to perform significantly lower:[1]

(Colombia)
Cyprus
(Denmark)
(Greece)
Iceland
Iran, Islamic Republic
(Kuwait)
(Latvia – LSS)[3]
(Lithuania)
Norway
Portugal
(Romania)
(Scotland)
(South Africa)
Spain
United States

† The term "nation" is used to refer to nations, states, or jurisdictions. Performance for nations is based on public school data only. Nations not meeting international guidelines are shown in parentheses.

1 See explanation on p. 3.

2 The Flemish and French educational systems in Belgium participated separately.

3 Latvia is designated LSS because only Latvian-speaking schools were tested, which represent less than 65% of the population.

Science Grade 8 ☆

Forty-one nations[1] participated in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in 8th grade science in 1995. If public school 8th graders in Wisconsin participated in the TIMSS science assessment, how would their average performance compare to that of students who took TIMSS in these nations?

1 nation[1] would be expected to perform significantly higher:[1]

Singapore

12 nations[1] would be expected to perform similarly:[1]

(Australia)
(Austria)
Belgium – Flemish[2]
(Bulgaria)
Czech Republic
(England)
Hungary
Japan
Korea
(Netherlands)
Slovak Republic
(Slovenia)
Wisconsin

28 nations[1] would be expected to perform significantly lower:[1]

(Belgium – French)[2]
Canada
(Colombia)
Cyprus
(Denmark)
France
(Germany)
(Greece)
Hong Kong
Iceland
Iran, Islamic Republic
Ireland
(Israel)
(Kuwait)
(Latvia – LSS)[3]
(Lithuania)
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
(Romania)
Russian Federation
(Scotland)
(South Africa)
Spain
Sweden
(Switzerland)
(Thailand)
United States

† The term "nation" is used to refer to nations, states, or jurisdictions. Performance for nations is based on public school data only. Nations not meeting international guidelines are shown in parentheses.

1 See explanation on p. 3.

2 The Flemish and French educational systems in Belgium participated separately.

3 Latvia is designated LSS because only Latvian-speaking schools were tested, which represent less than 65% of the population.

Wisconsin

Statistically Significant Differences in Subgroup Performance on NAEP

This page of the report provides additional information about the student subgroups in Wisconsin profiled in Part 3 on the state pages. Part 3 shows the percentages of public school students in different subgroups who met the Goals Panel's performance standard (that is, a score at or above the Proficient level) on the most recent NAEP mathematics and science assessments. Results are presented by sex, race/ethnicity, parents' highest level of education, school location, and eligibility for free/reduced-price lunch programs.

Pairs of subgroups are listed only if the percentage of students in one group who scored at or above Proficient was significantly higher than that of students in a second group. (See explanation of statistical significance on p. 3.) This is shortened to read, for example, males outperformed females. If a particular pair of subgroups is not shown, either the differences between them were not statistically significant, or sample sizes were too small to permit reliable estimates. The reader is cautioned to avoid interpreting these subgroup differences as causal relationships.

Mathematics, Grade 4 – 1996

- Males outperformed females.
- Whites outperformed Blacks and Hispanics.
- Students in urban fringes/large towns outperformed students in central cities.
- Students who *were not* eligible for the free/reduced-price school lunch program outperformed students who *were* eligible.

Mathematics, Grade 8 – 1996

- Whites outperformed Hispanics.
- Students whose parents (a) completed high school, (b) had some education beyond high school, or (c) completed college outperformed students whose parents did not complete high school.
- Students in urban fringes/large towns and in rural areas/small towns outperformed students in central cities.
- Students who *were not* eligible for the free/reduced-price school lunch program outperformed students who *were* eligible.

Science, Grade 8 – 1996

- Males outperformed females.
- Whites outperformed Blacks and Hispanics.
- Students whose parents (a) completed high school, (b) had some education beyond high school, or (c) completed college outperformed students whose parents did not complete high school.
- Students who *were not* eligible for the free/reduced-price school lunch program outperformed students who *were* eligible.

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Report Production

Julie Daft, Westat
Babette Gutmann, Westat
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Scott Miller, Editorial Experts, Inc.
Dan Troy, Westat
Richard Valliant, Westat
Michael Walker, Westat

Data Acquisition

Mary Lyn Bourque, National Assessment Governing Board
David Freund, Educational Testing Service
Steve Gorman, U.S. Department of Education
John Mazzeo, Educational Testing Service
Gary Shaggs, National Assessment Governing Board
Sheida White, U.S. Department of Education

National Education Goals Panel Staff

Ken Nelson
Executive Director

PROGRAM STAFF

John W. Barth
Senior Education Associate

Christopher R. Harrington
Education Associate

Leslie A. Lawrence
Senior Education Associate

Cynthia D. Prince
Associate Director for Analysis and Reporting

Emily O. Wurtz
Senior Education Associate

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Cynthia M. Dixon
Program Assistant

John Masaitis
Executive Officer

Sherry Price
Secretary

Response Card

Mathematics and Science Achievement in Wisconsin, 1998

The National Education Goals Panel values your feedback on *Mathematics and Science Achievement in Wisconsin, 1998*. Please take a few moments to fill out and return this questionnaire so that we can improve future reports. Mail or fax to:

National Education Goals Panel
1255 22nd Street, NW, Suite 502, Washington, DC 20037
PHONE (202) 724-0015
FAX (202) 632-0957
E-MAIL: NEGP@goalline.org
Website: http://www.negp.gov

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please circle all that apply:

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1. For what purpose do you use this report?

2. How well has the report served that purpose?

___ Very Well ___ Well ___ Poorly ___ Very Poorly

3. How, if at all, could the report have served you better?

4. How do you rate the usefulness of the information included on the state data pages?

(1 = not very useful and 5 = very useful)

- Part 1 – Improvement Over Time

1 2 3 4 5 N/A

- Part 2 – State Comparisons

1 2 3 4 5 N/A

- Part 3 – Subgroup Performance

1 2 3 4 5 N/A

- International Comparisons

1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Response Card

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____ *1997 Summary: Mathematics and Science Achievement for the 21st Century*
____ *1996 National Education Goals Report*
____ *1996 Executive Summary: Commonly Asked Questions About Standards and Assessments*
____ *1995 National Education Goals Report*
____ *1995 Executive Summary: Improving Education Through Family-School-Community Partnerships*
____ *Principles and Recommendations for Early Childhood Assessments, 1998*
____ *Ready Schools, 1998*
____ *Getting a Good Start in School, 1997*
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(202) 724-0015 • FAX (202) 632-0957
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E-MAIL: NEGP@goalline.org